

REMARKS

Applicants concurrently file herewith a petition (and fee) for three-month extension of time.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 9-13, 15, and 21 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Applicants have cancelled claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 14, and 16-20 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants have amended claims 1, 6, and 21 to define the claimed invention more particularly, to define a new patentable claim, and to raise a new issue for the Examiner's consideration, thereby precluding a First Action Final Rejection.

The cited references fail to teach or suggest the claimed invention. It is noted that the claim amendments herein, if any, are made only to more clearly and completely define the invention and to assure grammatical and idiomatic English and improved form under United States practice, and are not made to distinguish the invention over the prior art, or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1, 4, 6, 9-13, 15, and 21, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

Serial No. 10/567,369
Docket No. PKHF-04053US

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 09.15.09

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